

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 /019 W  
----- 024569

R 061319Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5978

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10580

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AFSP, UR  
SUBJECT: DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT REQUEST

REF: EUR REGIONAL INSTRUCTION 76-1

1. AS DEPARTMENT OFFICES CONCERNED ARE AWARE, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A HEWLETT PACKARD PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATOR PERSONALLY OWNED BY THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR FOR SEVERAL DATA PROCESSING PROGRAMS. THE PRINCIPAL INITIAL IMPETUS FOR THE ACTIVITY WAS NEED TO MONITOR COMPLEX US-SOVIET BILATERAL COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN A MANNER PARALLEL TO THE SYSTEM NOW IN USE BY THE DEPARTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, CONS AND ADMIN SECTIONS HAVE DEVELOPED EXTREMELY USEFUL PROGRAMS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. BECAUSE THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR PLANS DEPART POST IN SEPTEMBER 1976, EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS CONSIDERATION OF REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT TO ARRIVE AT POST NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 IF POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH CONTINUATION WITH AN IDENTICAL MACHINE WOULD HAVE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES, WE UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT PLANS STANDARDIZATION ON IBM 5100 EQUIPMENT AND THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ASSUME THAT COMPATIBILITY WITH THE DEPARTMENT WILL DICTATE THIS CHOICE.

3. INTENDED USES - THE MAJOR USE FORESEEN IS CONTINUED MONITORING OF EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES. SOVIET AND AMERICAN AGENCIES INVOLVED IN S&T COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS HAVE ESTABLISHED A UNIFORM CODING SYSTEM AND DATA PROGRAMS ARE ALREADY IN USE IN THE DEPARTMENT. CAREFUL MONITORING OF THESE ACTIVITIES IS CLEARLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AS EVIDENCED BY THE REQUIREMENT FOR QUARTERLY

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REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT AND WIDESPREAD NATIONAL INTEREST --

EUR/SOV AND OES CAN PROVIDE FURTHER BACKGROUND IF NEEDED. THE MASS OF DATA IS SUCH THAT IT CAN BE HANDLED ONLY BY AUTOMATED MEANS. THE CONSULAR SECTION NOW USES THE SCI COUNSELOR'S MACHINE TO MAINTAIN A READY PRINTOUT OF PENDING VISA APPLICATIONS TO ASSURE TIMELY ACTIONS ON PROCESSING -- A KEY AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE USSR IN LIGHT OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES AND MULTI-AGENCY USG COORDINATION REQUIRED IN ALMOST ALL CASES. ALSO, THE ADMIN SECTION HAS A PROGRAM FOR HOUSING WHICH IS UNUSUALLY COMPLEX TO MANAGE IN THE USSR, AND FOR TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES. (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT APPLICATIONS OF A STANDARD NATURE ARE FORESEEN FOR INVENTORIES, SUPPLIES, ETC.) P&C IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CONTACT AND DISTRIBUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY USIA POSTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH WE WOULD ASSUME ARE ADAPTABLE. THE GROWTH OF P&C PROGRAMS HAS OUTSTRIPPED THE CAPACITY OF CLERICAL STAFF AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVES SMOOTH OPERATIONS IMPORTANT IN THIS KEY AREA.

4. COSTS AND SAVINGS - THE APPLICATIONS ABOVE DERIVE FROM GREATLY EXPANDED US-SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND EMBASSY GROWTH IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE 1972 SUMMIT. THE ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR TIMELY, ACCURATE AND EXTENSIVE DATA PROCESSING WOULD BE ADDITION OF STAFF, WHICH THE EMBASSY CANNOT ABSORB OWING TO STRICT LIMITATIONS ON OFFICE SPACE AND HOUSING. WE WIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE ROOM TO ADD PEOPLE OR TYPEWRITERS.

5. MANAGEMENT - BASED ON OUR EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE SCI COUNSELOR'S MACHINE WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY NEED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE. CASSETTE PROGRAMS CAREFULLY DESIGNED MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EACH SECTION TO PROVIDE ITS OWN OPERATOR(S) FOR DATA INPUT AND READOUTS, AND APPLICATIONS ARE SUCH THAT REPROGRAMMING IS RARELY NECESSARY. IBM HAS AN OFFICE IN MOSCOW WHICH CAN ARRANGE FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE AS NEEDED.

6. VENDOR SERVICE - IBM MOSCOW HAS ADVISED US THAT VISITING CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEERS WOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH THE 5100 LINE WHICH IS MARKETING IN WESTERN EUROPE. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH IBM REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS FOR PURCHASE/RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE.

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7. REGIONAL USE - EMBASSY MOSCOW HAS NO REGIONAL FUNCTIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE POOR WITH OTHER POSTS SO WE SEE NO PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS AT THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS.

8. THE FOREGOING ONLY HIGHLIGHTS JUSTIFICATION SINCE WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL INFORMED ON THE CENTRAL ACTIVITY OF EXCHANGE MONITORING. ALSO, OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS IN THIS AND OTHER

FIELDS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW. SHOULD THERE BE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ON UTILITY AND VALUE, THE EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO PROVIDE MORE TAILED RATIONALE.

9. WE WOULD IN CLOSING STRESS TIMING SINCE DELIVERY LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1976 WILL GENERATE DATA BACKLOGS DIFFICULT TO OVER-COME. PRESENT PROGRAM INCLUDES COMPILATION OF STATISTICS BY AGREEMENT WHICH IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO MONITOR DEGREE OF BALANCE OF EXCHANGES UNDER EACH OF S&T COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. SYSTEM HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING SINCE JANUARY 1, 1976, AND DISRUPTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MEAN LOSS OF STATISTICAL COMPILATION CAPABILITY FOR ENTIRE 1976 YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION EMBASSY HOPES THAT NOT ONLY PROGRAMS BUT ALSO AUTOMATED MEANS TO TRANSFER LARGE AMOUNT OF STORED DATA WILL BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE SWITH FROM HP TO IBM. PYEMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL ON MACHINES WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY BE CONSIDERING FOR SUCH USES. STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT REQUEST  
**TAGS:** AFSP, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006